Purchase of ammunition from Hongkong

†1803. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Rashtriya Sahara of dated 2nd November, 2001 under the caption "Hongkong se ghatia gola barood kharida sena ne".

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to get this matter investigated by the CBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There was no such news-item in the Rashtriya Sahara of 2nd November, 2001.

(b) and (c) The case was referred to CBI for investigation on 20th April, 2000. A First Information Report was filed by the CBI on 27.7.2001 against the vendor and officers of Ministry of Defence who had handled this case.

Replacement of INS Vikrant and Viraat aircrafts

1804. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Navy is feeling a pressing need for replacement of INS Vikrant and Viraat aircrafts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that upgradation and indigenisation of these aircrafts are only alternative for them; and

(c) if so, what step are being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) After the decommissioning of INS Vikrant in 1997, presently, only one Aircraft Carrier *viz.* INS Viraat is in

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of two operational Aircraft Carriers.

The Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS) for the Indian Navy in 1999. In addition an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed with the Government of the Russian Federation in October, 2000 for the acquisition of an Aircraft Carrier "Admiral Gorshkov". The Detailed Project Document (DPD) furnished by the Russian side on various aspects of the "Admiral Gorshkov" project, has been examined. However, an investment decision on the acquisition of "Admiral Gorshkov" has not yet been taken.

Infiltration of terrorists from across the border

1805. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no decrease in infiltration of terrorists from Pakistan despite deployment of Armed Forces at borders;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the weak points at borders from where infiltration is continuing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the strategy to be adopted by Defence Forces to check infiltration across the borders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is a decrease in infiltration of terrorists from Pakistan during the last two months.

(b) to (d) The Army has identified probable routes of infiltration by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the configuration of terrain, prevailing climatic conditions and active abetment by Pakistan precludes a complete sealing of the Line of Control; against infiltrating terrorists.

The Army has instituted a comprehensive surveillance system and adopted a suitable defensive posture to check infiltration from across the International Border/Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.